

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend or add the following paragraph(s) in the specification as follows:

On page 2, the paragraph beginning at line 11:

The present invention is directed to the provision of prepaints, which are fluid prepaint compositions or premixed aqueous compositions which can be used to provide a paint mixture of varying finish characteristics at the point of sale. Thus, the merchant distributing the paint composition made from the subject premixed compositions need only maintain inventory of four compositions. The particular compositions which are the subject of the invention exhibit stable characteristics during storage in their respective reservoirs. [[In other words, the components used to make the prepaint compositions are compatible with each other, or mutually compatible.]]

On page 6, the paragraph beginning at line number 19:

The pigment-containing constituent or premixed pigment composition preferably contains titanium dioxide finely ground in an amount residing within the range of 40 to 50 percent by weight or a corresponding range of pigment volume concentrations ("PVC") of the pigment. [[Pigment concentrations by weight may also be converted to volume based valuations and referenced as pigment volume concentrations ("PVC").]] The ground titanium dioxide is a commercially available product used in a wide variety of paint compositions and its preparation techniques are well-known in the industry. The titanium dioxide is added to water which comprises about 25 percent of the resultant pigment composition. During the blending process, a mixture of calcined clay and silica in an amount of 15 percent by weight is added to maintain the titanium dioxide in suspension. A viscosity controlling agent is also added in an amount of about 10 percent of the resultant dispersion or pigment composition.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning at line 20:

The dispersant-thickener agent is preferably used in formulating all paint compositions with the exception of a high gloss finish paint composition. The third and fourth compositions available for mixing are the resin-containing compositions. The low resin composition or[[extender]] prepaint is preferably about 50 percent resin by weight and about 28 percent water. However, the percentage of resin by weight can be as low as 10 percent. To this mixture of resin and water is added diatomaceous earth as a flattening agent[[or an extender pigment]] in the amount of about 7 percent and a combination of ground limestone and calcined clay at about 11 percent and about 3.5 percent respectively.[[The ground limestone, or calcium carbonate, is another example of an extender pigment.]] The combination of a dispersant and thickener are added in the aggregate amount of about 1.2 percent to promote the same long shelf life characteristic of the pigment composition.

On page 9, the paragraph beginning at line 5:

The high resin component preferably contains resin in an amount of about 80 percent, water at about 15 percent and a commercially-available coalescent at about 2 percent. However, the percentage of resin by weight can be as high as about 90 percent. The amount of resin and water in the low and high resin compositions can be varied to achieve different finish characteristics. The resin utilized in the paint products formulated from the different combinations and found to provide the desired results is a 100 percent acrylic acrylon resin, such as the resin sold under the trademark 6183 by BASF[], also called Acronal Optive 220. This resin is polymeric and inherently produces a latex paint composition. BASF 6183 is an example of a latex polymeric binder]]. However, it is to be noted that other commercially available resins can be used if desired.

On page 9, after line 13 add the following paragraph:

As is well known, when a resin of the present invention comes into contact with any of the pigments or flattening agents in the pigment composition and low resin compositions, the resin is inherently adsorbed onto the pigments and flattening agents. These pigments and flattening agents may include one or more of titanium dioxide, silica, calcined clay, limestone, and diatomaceous earth, as set forth in this specification.

On page 10, the paragraph beginning at line number 1:

The four compositions can also be varied to produce varying quality levels and to produce paint compositions. That is, two or more paint compositions can be produced. These paint compositions may be paint compositions that are suitable for either interior or exterior use and paint compositions having various color bases so that they are suitable for use as different types of colors. [[As is well known, a plurality of paint compositions or]] Thus, a paint line[[includes]] including two or more different paint compositions may be produced in which the dried films of the different paint compositions inherently differ materially from each other[[in at least one measurable property]].